RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

SEPTEMBER 1985

WE ARE BACK !!! . . . WITH ALL THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE BEEN MISSING DURING THIS TIME. THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE HOPES ALL OUR MEMBERS HAD A GREAT VACATION OR A RELAXED TIME AT HOME . . .

GET TOGETHER WITH COUNCILMEN OF WARDS C AND D

By: Edith Springer

On July 9th, at the monthly RNA meeting, Councilman Joseph "Buddy" Brooks, newly elected to Ward C, and continuing Councilman Tom Hart, re-elected to Ward D, came to hear our concerns and to share with us some of their ideas and plans for our neighborhood. Mr. Brooks, who was meeting with the RNA group for the first time, shared with us that he is a former policeman who was in charge of the Vice and Gambling Squad for 7 years. Mr. Brooks is also an attorney, and graduate of N.Y.U. Law School. Mr. Brooks said that he is interested in good government and has no rivalry with Mr. Hart. He said the election is over and "now we work together for the betterment of your neighborhood."

Mr. Hart, who has been at our meetings many times and who we have worked with since our organization began, in response to Mr. Brooks stating that his nickname is "Buddy", rejoined that his nickname is Feisty". This produced chuckles from the membership and from Mr. Brooks. Mr. Hart agreed with Mr. Brooks that there is no rivalry between them; in fact, the natural geography of the area makes them work together and they both feel they will work well together. Mr. Hart indicated that sometimes his role with the community is to play "devil's advocate", that is, where we are looking at the positive side of an issue, he feels he should present the negatives, and vice versa. The bottom line, he said, was that it is our neighborhood and he is our representative. He said that where he believes strongly in something, he'll tell us, but when we come to our decision, he will push for it within the confines of the law.

Many issues close to our hearts were brought up by the membership. The RNA wanted to familiarize Mr. Brooks with some very local issues that he might not be aware of and to touch base with Mr. Hart again on what our interests and positions were on these issues. The "Mountain Road" issue was the first one brought up. Police response was the second issue. Both councilmen were familiar with our problems with the police. Mr. Brooks felt that we need more police, an opinion shared by our organization. Mr. Hart felt that we have sufficient manpower but that deployment was the problem. He felt that we needed our own Hudson City precinct with more police on duty at night that there are now and fewer during the day. Mr. Hart suggested that we form a block watch, which we are now in the process of doing. Chuck Hollowell brought up the Park Restoration Project and the need for more and better communication and input from the community. Mr. Hart agreed and suggested a meeting between our Parks Committee and the Neighborhood Improvement Project. We asked if some of the money in the Palisade Facade Program (which does not appear to be being used by the community) could be diverted to the Park. Mr. Hart said he would have to find out. Questions were raised

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ARSON

Arson is big business in this country. Part of this is because insurance companies, unless specifically instructed that a fire is arson-related, will pay a claim without investigating on their own. RNA became concerned about arson after a rash of recent fires in our area. On June 11th, Captain Eddie Campbell, of the Jersey City Fire Department addressed the RNA concerning this problem. He relayed the new arson hot-line telephone number: 547-4253, and reported that the Fire Department writes its own summonses to landlords and homeowners now, instead of the Police Department, making it unnecessary for people to give their names if they want to report possible fire code violations. Capt. Campbell gave several warning signs for detecting a potential arson target: unboarded vacant buildings, absentee landlords, a pro-

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Captain Ed Campbell of the Fire Dept. talking to the members of the RNA at a June meeting.

Opinion —— *Letters to the Editor*

The comments expressed in this column reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of the RNA.

TIRED OF BEING DUMPED ON . . .

Dear Editor:

Having lived in this neighborhood for more than 40 years, it saddens me that it has become, of late, the target of "dumpers". To see your neighborhood littered with garbage of every description is bad enough, but to discover that this refuse is deposited on our Heights streets through the misconception that Jersey City has "free dumping", is really frustrating. No one has the right to "free dump" on Jersey City's open lots, parks, access roads, or streets. Yet, somehow, this idea has taken root in the minds of some residents, or non-residents, of this city, and is turning this neighborhood into a "garbage dump".

I cannot understand the thinking of these "dumpers". It is obvious they do not want to live with their refuse strewn about them, so why do they persist in forcing other people to live with it. There is a minimum of twice weekly garbage pick-up in every section of the city, so there is no need for anyone to dispose of their own waste material. Perhaps if the "dumpers" were the "dumpees", they would be as angry about the public litter of our neighborhood as I am.

Please pass the word that there is no "free dumping" in this city. We pay for the collection of our garbage through our taxes. Don't let our taxes go to waste by disposing of your own refuse. Give the Sanitation Dept. a chance to earn their salaries by removing your garbage in the accepted way and at the same time keep our streets "dump free".

Sincerely,
Maria Tuzzo

WARDS C AND D MEET WITH RNA . . .

about the Riverview Arts District and Council and what they are. Mr. Hart indicated that it was intended as a device to bring new residents into the community. People also asked what Armand Beard's official role is in this project. Mr. Hart responded that Mr. Beard is a development manager whose salary is paid by the city council. At this time there is no Riverview Arts District Council. Ann Hart asked when we will have a real artists council and Tom Hart replied that it will be done and residents will have input.

The meeting ended with Mr. Hart indicating that he is confident about working with Mr. Brooks and is happy to be addressing the RNA membership. He promised that we'd get honesty from him, "even if it hurts". Mr. Brooks parting words were that he intends to be an active participant in decision-making relative to our community and can be reached at the City Council.

ARSON . . . *Continued from page 1*

perty that is being let "go to pot," and missing smoke detectors. If you have reason to suspect that a building in the neighborhood may become an arson target, call the Hot-Line and put in a complaint: 547-4253.

In addition, Capt. Campbell gave several Home Safety Tips: avoid wearing long sleeves in the kitchen, accumulating junk (especially flammable liquids), keep a box of Arm & Hammer baking soda handy for grease fires, check windows for easy sliding and all emergency escape routes *in advance*, change dead batteries (chemical leaks), recharge fire extinguishers after any use, and always unplug appliances like toasters, irons and "always-ons" after each use.

Mentioning that there are 400 out of service fire hydrants in J.C., Capt. Campbell urged us to "bombard" the Water Department with complaints that they be fixed at once. He also said that there is a company called Chemtrek in Washington, D.C. that gives out information on Chemical fires, and aids in keeping track of chemical dumpers that move from one county to another.

In his concluding remarks, Capt. Campbell recommended we do all we can to get the J.C. Fire and Police Departments "networking" to make the neighborhood safer – and to ensure that our public officials are responsive to the community's needs.

—Ellen Boggs

WHAT A GUY !

Ed Williams of Ogden Avenue, one of RNA's members who works quietly behind the scenes to further our organization, won the 50/50 raffle over the summer and turned his winnings back to RNA as a contribution for Ed Lortz's good-by cake. Thanks, Ed.

TIPS on crime prevention

By: Ellen Boggs

Several members of the RNA, Chuck Hollowell, Bob and Carin Lewis, Mike and Lorraine Cioffi and Ellen Boggs went to Rahway State Penitentiary on Monday, July 15th, to participate in an outreach program created by the prison's Lifer's Group, called "TIPS – Tips on Prevention". The purpose of the visit was to learn crime prevention tips to aid the RNA in setting up its Neighborhood Crime Watch, and to exchange views with the inmates. Once the elaborate security precautions were completed, Lifer's Group President Jim Lendano welcomed the visitors and got right to the point. He ran down a 14-point program for lowering the "crime appeal" of any neighborhood, and emphasized that the main ingredient for a crime-free neighborhood is awareness –criminals are highly alert, so we need to be very alert to criminal activity. Mr. Lendano advocated "Community Power" – making our representatives accountable. If necessary, he said, citizens can listen in on police band radios to keep abreast of police deployment and response. Crime watchers can use "walkie-talkies" to stay in contact with each other, and drive in cars bearing side decals proclaiming this a "Crime Watch" area, which in itself was thought to be an effective crime deterrent. Other tips included use of watch dogs, picking up of mail frequently rather than letting it accumulate, using programmable devices to turn lights and radios off and on when not at home, and caution when entering vestibules or crossing to cars in parking lots, especially late at night. Neighborhood patrols should keep their eyes open and note license numbers of suspicious vehicles. They need not apprehend anyone – that is not safe or advisable – but information that includes detailed descriptions could come in handy to police investigators.

At Ed Lortz farewell party, we see Ed with Edith Springer, Liz Murray and Marie (Dee) Ipsaro.

TAKE BACK THE STREETS

By: R.S. Gerber

On July 16, a special meeting was called to begin organizing a block watch. As special guest speakers, Dennis Crowley, Community Affairs and Pat Maglione, Captain of the North Precinct, attended. Cooperation and organization between neighbors and cooperation with the police were emphasized as the most successful means of "taking a bite out of crime."

Several suggestions were put forth:

1. Block captains should be appointed
2. Phone numbers can be exchanged
3. Special consideration, in the form of a designated individual, should be given to invalids and shut-ins. The selected individual and the person in question can agree upon a signal, such as curtains at a raised position, signifying that all is well; in addition, the blockwatcher can call once a day to check.
4. On the matter of signals, a block can agree upon a danger signal, such as whistles, to alert the other blockwatchers
5. After an alert signal, neighbors can come out onto their front porches, or look out their windows; this concerted effort, involving minimum danger to the blockwatchers, will act as a deterrent, because of the number of people involved
6. In the event of emergency, call 911. If crime is not an emergency, call 547-5477, "KIS*KISS"
7. When notifying the police, give:
   - As accurate a description of perpetrators as possible
   - Obtain license plate number
   - Record ID number of person who received your call
8. In general, keep a record of all suspicious activity or vehicles in your neighborhood
9. Install alarm systems
10. All personal valuables should be clearly marked with either social security number or license numbers, as well as cross referenced with a list of relevant information on the article
11. Porch lights are important
12. House numbers on the front, as well as the back of the house aid in locating the trouble. Maps are also clearly and aid
13. Check security weaknesses: overgrown bushes, trees around the house
14. An escort service can be organized to eliminate solitary walks from buses to home or from private vehicles parked a distance from home

Until this July, the North precinct had sustained a force of only 99 officers. An additional 65 men have been added to the entire police force in J.C. Due to the shortage of personnel, emergencies are given priority response. The expected arrival time is within five minutes. Because of the nature of limitations on the police force, neighbors, as well as cooperation with the police, is of the essence. The fight against crime can be won one block at a time.

The Riverview Neighborhood Association would like to thank Lieutenant Dennis Crowley, and Pat Maglione, Captain of our North Precinct. The "BLOCKWATCHERS GUIDE", published by the Jersey City Police Department, is available through the Neighborhood Association, or the local police station.

SPOT REASSESSMENT APPEAL

At the end of July, when the 1985-86 municipal tax bills were mailed, two thousand (2,000) Jersey City residents were reassessed: resulting in increased property taxes. Anyone whose taxes are being raised, should appeal because of the discriminatory nature of this reassessment.

The deadline for this appeal is September 16, 1985. The appeal forms can be obtained either at City Hall or the Hudson County Board of Taxation (795-6586).

A group is organizing the 2,000 reassessed residents. Their next meeting is on September 11, at the Hughes Inn (Sip and Summit Aves) at 7:30 p.m. (Contact: Shirley Quinn, organizer in the Heights, (798-4994).

State Senator Cowan is drafting legislation to stop this reassessment (Contact: Maryjane Badach, aide to the Senator (798-4101). For more information, please contact: Vito Brunetti (798-0493).

"Hocky Player" by Dean Howell — Fiberglass & Fiber

FINALLY, A GALLERY IN THE HEIGHTS !!

SOLO STUDIOS is a gallery/studio complex located here in the Riverview Arts District of the Heights. The studios include sculpture, painting/drawing, fashion illustration/design, and ceramics. The galleries exhibit two and three dimensional works, including prints and photographs.

Dean Howell and Lynda Grose extend an open invitation to residents and friends of the Heights to attend the Premiere Opening of SOLE STUDIOS at 469 Palisade Ave. on Sunday, September 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
EXHIBITION: Works & "Living Realism" by Dean Howell.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

We have been promised a drawing of the future 311 Palisade Ave. by its owner, John Bober. When we have it, we will meet and discuss.

Pohlman Hall developer still plans to go ahead with Town Houses on the hill in back of the restored main building. They are expecting to ask the city for site plan approval in December.

Randy Sanford

NEW R.N.A. OFFICERS

By: D. Ipsaro

Congratulations to Richard LaPosta, Treasurer and Randy Sanford, Chairman of Planning and Development. Their election took place at our last meeting, July 9, 1985.

They are intelligent, erudite and personable young men—capable of doing a terrific job—well qualified for their offices.

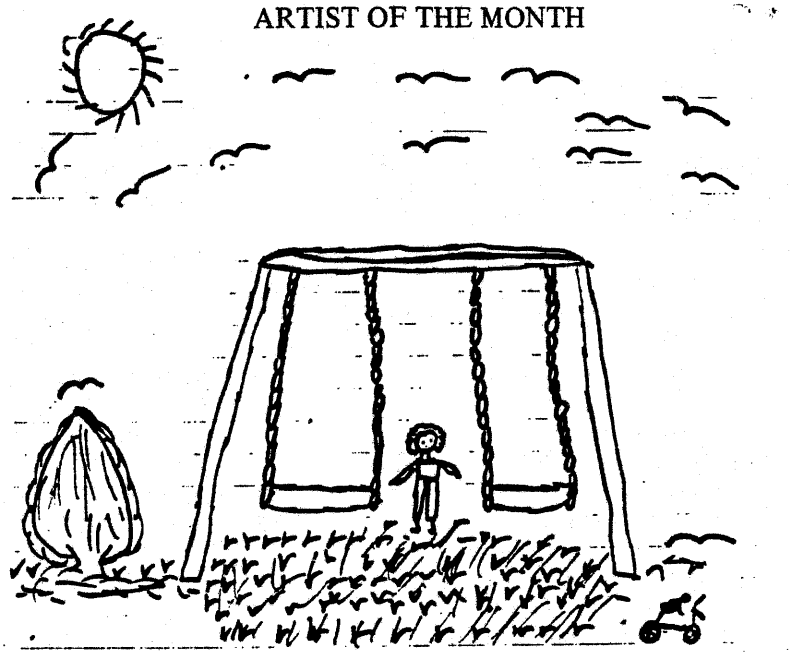
Good luck, Richie and Randy. The R.N.A. is behind you 100%.

FAR EASTERN CHICKEN

6	whole chicken breasts skins removed	2	cloves garlic, minced
1	tablespoon cinnamon	1/2	cup honey
½	tablespoon curry powder	3/4	cup unsweetened grapefruit juice
1	teaspoon salt	1	cup crushed pineapple

Place chicken breasts in a single layer in a large frying pan. Combine the honey, cinnamon, curry powder salt and garlic in a large measuring cup. Stir in the grapefruit juice, blending well. Pour over the chicken. Cover the pan and simmer over medium heat for 20 minutes, stirring to prevent sticking and turning the chicken once. Preheat broiler. When the chicken is tender, transfer to a broiler-proof serving dish. Combine the pan juices with pineapple and spread this mixture evenly over the chicken pieces. Broil six inches from the heat for 5 minutes, or until lightly glazed and bubbling. Serve with steamed rice.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Beverlyn Garcia — 10 years old

A SHORT COURSE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

The 6 Most Important Words:
"I Admit I Made a Mistake"
The 5 Most Important Words:
"You Did a Good Job"
The 4 Most Important Words:
"What Is Your Opinion"
The 3 Most Important Words:
"If You Please"
The 2 Most Important Words:
"Thank You"
The 1 Most Important Word:
"We"
The Least Important Word:
"I"

Maria Tuzzo

PLEASE DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10th AT 7 P.M. AT THE RIVERVIEW HEALTHCARE CENTER

YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT!

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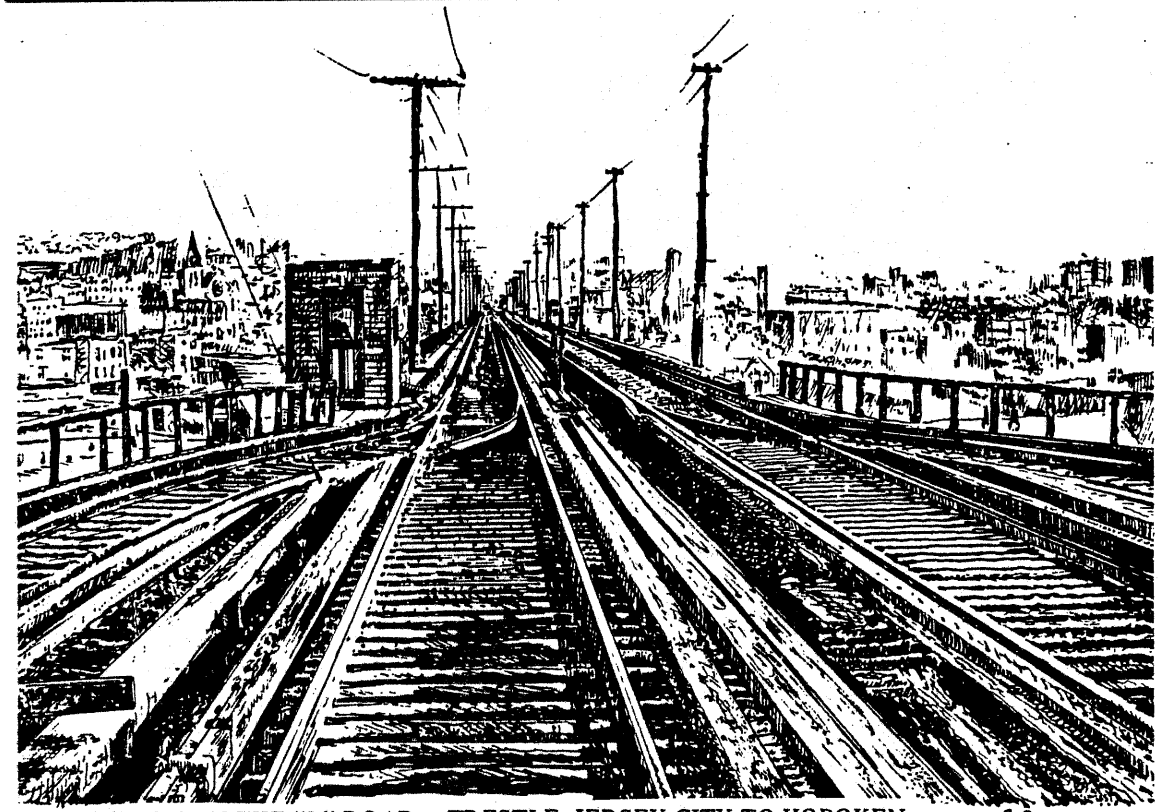
RNA is organizing a bus ride to Atlantic City. The tour will take place on Sunday, October 20th.

For details about the fare price and time, please contact Michael Cioffi — (792-4595) or Maria Tuzzo (659-2245).

RNA COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marie "Dee" Ipsaro
Liz Murray
Edith Springer
Raquel Sweeny
Maria Tuzzo

SPECIAL THANKS TO CATHY BRENNAN



VIEW DOWN THE "L" ROAD – TRESTLE, JERSEY CITY TO HOBOKEN LaRovere 1995
HUDSON CITY HISTORICAL ASSN. (Theodore Conrad's contribution) *Rendering by Artist LaRovere*

Several RNA members lost pets this summer. The Conrad's dog, Duchess, died of heart failure during a thunderstorm. The Sweeny's majestic Tito was put to sleep due to old age and illness. Kathy Brennan similarly had to put her dog to sleep, but happily she has a new puppy now. The Brunetti's cat, Muffin, had surgery on two impacted teeth and is good as new except she's now called "Scarface". Liz Murray's cat, Sam disappeared in Shelter Island. It seems he decided to stay there and have a longer vacation. Condolences to all those pet owners who lost beloved family fixtures.